

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JAKART 11721 201337Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4541

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T JAKARTA 11721

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS,ENRG, PBOR, VS, ID

SUBJ: MINISTER MOCHTAR ON GOI-GVN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE

REF: JAKARTA 11610

1. DURING CALL ON JUSTICE MINISTER (AND LOS EXPERT)

MOCHTAR SEPTEMBER 19, I RAISED QUESTION OF GOI-GVN
CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE, REITERATING OUR HOPE BOTH
SIDES CAN FIND AMICABLE SOLUTION.

2. MOCHTAR STATED THAT MOMENTUM HAD BEEN LOST IN
FEBRUARY-MARCH PERIOD WHEN SOUTH VIETNAMESE FAILED
TO RESPOND TO INDONESIAN INITIATIVE, PERMITTING
INDONESIAN HARDLINERS - PARTICULARLY PERTAMINA (STATE OIL)
CHIEF IBNU SUTOW - TO OBTAIN UPPER HAND IN DETERMINING
INDONESIA'S BARGAINING POSTURE. MOCHTAR CONFIRMED
SOEDARMONO'S IMPRESSION THAT RELATED PROBLEM SPRINGS
FROM APPARENT GVN INTENTION TO TRY TO USE CONSULTATIONS
AS LEVER FOR OBTAINING AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL RELATIONS
(REFTEL).

3. REMARKING HE STRONGLY FAVORS EARLY TECHNICAL LEVEL
NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE MATTER BEFORE OIL DISCOVERED IN
DISPUTED AREA (THUS DECREASING CHANCES OF COMPROMISE),
MOCHTAR SAID HE HAD GIVEN UP TRYING HIMSELF TO GET IBNU
SUTOWO TO SOFTEN HIS POSITION AND HAD ASKED PRESIDENT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JAKART 11721 201337Z

SUHARTO TO SPEAK TO IBNU. MOCHTAR SAID IT HIS IMPRESSION

PRESIDENT WILL ESTABLISH MODERATE INDONESIAN NEGOTIATING
POSITION SINCE BY NATURE SUHARTO IS AMENABLE TO COMPROMISE.

4. COMMENT: THIS REINFORCES IMPRESSION MENTIONED IN REFTTEL
THAT INDONESIA IS READY TO SEEK GENUINE NEGOTIATION WITH
SVN OF CONTINENTAL SHELF PROBLEM AND TO MAKE SOME
COMPROMISES IF NECESSARY, BUT THAT MATTER WILL BE
COMPLICATED IF GVN INSISTS ON USING THIS AS LEVER FOR
CLOSER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.
NEWSOM

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, CONTINENTAL SHELF, DISPUTES, PETROLEUM, EXPLORATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JAKART11721
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740264-0887
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740928/aaaaaxsg.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: JAKARTA 11610
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTER MOCHTAR ON GOI-GVN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE
TAGS: PLOS, ENRG, PBOR, VS, ID, US, (MOCHTAR)
To: STATE SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005